

Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone A Lifeline Assistance and Link-Up America Outreach Campaign

FCC Consumer Facts

Background

The Lifeline telephone discount program gives people with low incomes a discount on basic monthly service for the phone at their principal place of residence. This can be a wireline or wireless phone. The Link-Up program pays for a portion of the wireline or wireless installation or activation fee, not including the handset.

How Much Are the Discounts?

Federal Lifeline discounts on phone bills can be up to \$10.00 per month, depending on your state of residence. Some states give matching discounts, so you may save even more, depending on where you live. The federal Link-Up program pays for one-half of your wireline or wireless installation or activation fee, not including the handset, up to \$30. Consumers living on tribal lands may qualify for additional Lifeline and Link-Up discounts.

Qualifying for Lifeline and Link-Up Support

The Lifeline and Link-Up programs are available to qualifying consumers in every state, territory, and U.S. commonwealth. Eligibility for participation in these programs varies by state. States that have their own state Lifeline program may have their own criteria. In states that rely solely on the Federal Low Income Program, a consumer must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

Qualifying for Lifeline and Link-Up Support (Cont'd.)

- Medicaid,
- Food Stamps,
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI),
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8),
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, or
- The National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program.

Estimated income requirements for households at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are as follows:

Family Size	Estimated Income Requirements		
	Lower 48/DC	Hawaii	Alaska
1	\$12,920	\$16,133	\$14,864
2	\$17,321	\$21,641	\$19,926
3	\$21,722	\$27,149	\$24,989
4	\$26,123	\$32,657	\$30,051
5	\$30,524	\$38,165	\$35,114
6	\$34,925	\$43,673	\$40,176
7	\$39,326	\$49,181	\$45,239
8	\$43,727	\$54,689	\$50,301

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For each additional person in the household beyond eight, add \$4,401 for persons living in the lower 48 and DC, \$5,508 for Alaska, and \$5,063 for Hawaii to the income eligibility requirements.

Qualifying for Enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up Support on Tribal Lands

A consumer living on tribal lands may be eligible for enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up if he/she has an income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, participates in any of the seven qualifying assistance programs for regular Lifeline and Link-Up, qualifies under the state's Lifeline program (if the consumer lives in a state with its own Lifeline program), or participates in any of these three additional qualifying assistance programs for Enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance,
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF), or
- Head Start (those meeting its income qualifying standard).

How Can I Sign Up?

For information about these programs and to determine whether you qualify for discounts under the Low-Income program, call your local telephone company or your state regulatory agency. The telephone number for your state regulatory agency can be found on the Web site of The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners: www.naruc.org. Alternatively, you can go to www.lifelinesupport.org for more information. To contact the FCC call 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) - voice, or 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) - TTY, or write FCC, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554.

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